

What's New in the MPDC

MAY 14, 2001

“COPS IN SHOPS” PROGRAM TARGETS UNDERAGE DRINKERS

In 1999, almost 70 percent of liquor law violations nationwide were committed by young people under the age of 21. And in the District last year, nearly one-quarter of alcohol-related traffic fatalities involved people younger than 21. To help reduce underage drinking – and to stem drunken driving and save young lives – the MPDC this week announced the re-establishment of the “Cops in Shops” program in the District. Working in partnership with store owners, the program uses plain-clothes police officers in two capacities: officers posing as store clerks inside liquor establishments confront, card and, when appropriate, arrest underage youth attempting to purchase liquor with false IDs; other officers wait outside liquor stores to see if young people will ask the officers to buy liquor for them. A partnership of the MPDC, The Century Council, local liquor establishments, the Mayor’s Office of Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs and others, “Cops in Shops” is set to begin operation within the next week. The program is funded by The Century Council, the US Department of Justice/Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration grant awarded through the District Division of Transportation. Read more about “Cops in Shops” at:

www.mpdc.org (Click on News)

28 NEW POLICE OFFICERS BOLSTER COMMUNITY POLICING EFFORTS

Chief Ramsey on Thursday administered the oath of office to 28 new members of the MPDC, during ceremonies at the Bureau of Engraving in Southwest DC. The officers successfully completed their 24 weeks of training and are being assigned to the seven police districts. In their new assignments, the officers will directly support the District’s community policing strategy, known as “Policing for Prevention.” In remarks to the new officers, Chief Ramsey asked them to reflect on the hundreds of thousands of police officers who have come before them, including those who have made the ultimate sacrifice and are being honored during National Police Week. Ramsey said there is no greater tribute to these fallen officers than “each and every one of us going out and doing our jobs, and doing them with courage and compassion, each and every day of our careers.” To access the Chief’s graduation remarks and a listing of the new officers, click on:

Complete information about career opportunities in the MPDC can be found on the Department’s Web site:

**www.mpdc.org
(Click on Career Opportunities)**

www.mpdc.org (Click on News)

25 NEW INVESTIGATORS ANNOUNCED, COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING BEGINS

As part of its continuing commitment to improve the investigation and closure of crimes in the District, the MPDC this week announced the appointment of 25 officers to the rank of investigator, pending completion of a rigorous three-week training program. The new investigators are the top candidates from a newly designed examination and selection process. The training they are going through is the most comprehensive ever offered to new investigators in the MPDC. It includes hands-on work with a number of real-life scenarios, culminating with a moot court session to hone the new investigators' skills in testifying in court. Once they complete training, the new investigators will be assigned to detectives offices in the seven police districts. Chief Ramsey has made improving the criminal investigation process a top priority of the MPDC for the current year. The Chief explained how the Department will meet this priority in testimony earlier this year before the DC Council:

www.mpdc.org (Click on News)

UPDATE ON SMOOTH OPERATOR: 2,273 CITATIONS DURING WAVE 1

MPDC officers issued 2,273 citations for red-light running, speeding and other forms of aggressive driving during Wave 1 of this year's "Smooth Operator" program, April 30-May 6. First District officers issued 551 notices of infraction, while both 2D and 5D officers wrote in excess of 400 tickets each. "Smooth Operator" is a regional program targeting aggressive driving through enhanced enforcement and public education. The second wave of this year's program is scheduled for June 11-17. Complete information about "Smooth Operator" is available at:

www.mpdc.org (Click on Services & Programs)

CHIEF URGES GREATER COORDINATION IN DC CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Testifying Friday before a House Government Reform subcommittee, Chief Ramsey urged greater coordination in DC's criminal justice system under the auspices of an enhanced Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC). The Chief said the continued reduction in crime in the District is a direct result of increased partnerships – not just between the police and the community, but also among the MPDC, prosecutors, court services personnel and other members of the criminal justice system. He urged Congress to support an enhanced CJCC that would have the authority to bring various elements of the system together to tackle the continuing problems of drugs and guns, while also addressing new issues such as cyber-crime and restorative justice. The Chief joined Deputy Mayor for Public Safety Margaret Kellems and other criminal justice executives in a hearing of the Government Reform Subcommittee on the District of Columbia, chaired by Maryland Congresswoman Constance Morella. Read the Chief's complete statement at:

www.mpdc.org (Click on News)

Information, ideas or comments about this service?

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